



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Health Care Quality and Cost Council
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Chair

KATHARINE LONDON
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Transparency and Communication Committee

Agenda

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Time: 3:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Place: One Ashburton Place
21st floor, room 3
Boston, MA

- I. Approval of Minutes of Committee Meeting February 6, 2008
- II. Update on Development of Communications Strategy and Web Design, SolomonMcCown
- III. Committee's Recommendation to the Council: Initial Set of Health Care Quality and Cost Measures to be Posted on the Council's Website

Communications & Transparency Committee Proposal:

At its initial launch in June, 2008, the Council's health care quality and cost information website will include, in one centralized, interactive, consumer-friendly format:

- 1) Hospital quality measures currently available in spreadsheet format on www.mass.gov/healthcareqc and in graphical format on www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov. These measures include process measures (adherence to recognized clinical protocols), mortality rates, volume and/or utilization data for common conditions such as heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, hip replacement, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), and maternity services.
- 2) Hospital patient safety measures currently available on www.leapfroggroup.org, including: use of Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE), use of intensivist physicians in ICUs, experience with high risk treatments, and compliance with 27 of the National Quality Forum's Endorsed Safe Practices for Better Healthcare.
- 3) Quality measures for large physician group practices currently available on www.mhqp.org, if MHQP makes these measures available to the Council. MHQP primarily reports HEDIS measures related to: cancer screening, depression care, diabetes care, asthma care, pediatric care, and women's health.
- 4) Cost data calculated from the Council's health claims dataset for inpatient procedures that closely align with the quality and patient safety measures described above, for example, the price of a heart attack admission. Cost data will include the median price paid by all health insurance carriers to each facility, as well as the 25th percentile price and the 75th percentile price to indicate the price range.
- 5) Cost data calculated from the Council's health claims dataset for the most common outpatient procedures, including common diagnostic procedures such as MRIs.

In the summer of 2008, the Council will also add an "out-of-pocket cost estimator" that will provide consumers with an estimate of the price they will likely pay out-of-pocket for a given procedure; consumers would have to enter detailed information about their own insurance coverage to obtain this estimate.

Over time, the Council will expand the data available on its website to include additional quality measures calculated from its claims dataset, as well as additional cost measures for broad range of health care facilities and services.